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1981/06/03

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EMISE

KOREA

The Chinese desire stability on the Korean peninsula.

We have pressed them in the past to caution their North Korean allies not to take provocative actions. China publicly supports North Korean demands for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the peninsula.

TALKING POINTS

-- THE SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA IS NOW FAIRLY NORMAL AND PRESIDENT CHUN'S GOVERNMENT IS FULLY FUNCTIONING. CONFIDENCE AND FULL COOPERATION HAS BEEN RESTORED TO OUR RELATIONSHIP AFTER A PERIOD OF SOME STRAIN.

-- WE ARE CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT CHUN IS SERIOUS IN SEEKING A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KIM IL-SUNG TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF FINDING A MEANS OF REDUCING TENSIONS AND BUILDING COOPERATION ON THE PENINSULA WHICH CAN LEAD TO EVENTUAL UNIFICATION.

-- THE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES FOR POSITIVE CHANGE ON THE PENINSULA IS FOR NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO BE WILLING TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF SOUTH KOREA. WE HOPE CHINA WILL QUIETLY ENCOURAGE NORTH KOREA TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH THE SOUTH. IT IS NOT EFFECTIVE FOR PYONGYANG TO PRESS TO TRY TO RESOLVE KOREAN PENINSULA ISSUES WITH US. ANY SUCH MEETINGS MUST HAVE BOTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES FULLY AND EQUALLY REPRESENTED.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

RDS-3 Date: 6/3/91

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MR Cases Only:

EO Citations

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() Non-Responsive Info

FOIA Exemptions

FA Exemptions

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-- (IF ASKED) THE PROPOSED ROK PURCHASE OF F-16 AIRCRAFT
LATER THIS DECADE POSES NO THREAT TO NORTH KOREA. IT IS PURELY
A DEFENSIVE REACTION TO THE PRESENTLY UNSTABLE SITUATION
CREATED BY CLEAR NORTH KOREAN AIR SUPERIORITY AND AGING F-86
AND F-5A/B AIRCRAFT IN THE ROK INVENTORY. THE ROK IS MAKING NO
ATTEMPT TO MATCH THE NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCE IN QUANTITY OF
COMBAT AIRCRAFT, BUT THE PROPOSED PURCHASES WILL REDUCE THE
PRESENT IMBALANCE IN COMBAT CAPABILITY IN THE AIR AND THUS
ENHANCE STABILITY AND REDUCE RISKS OF MISCALCULATION.

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RDS-3, 6/3/91